THE ORPHAN BRIDE.

I gazed upon her lovely form,
In a snowy vest enshrouded ;
Ere stern affliction pierced her soul,
Or her young life's sunshine clouded.

I watched her, in her beauty's pride,
At the altar meekly kneeling,
And mark'd the pale, pellucid drop
O'er her timid blushes stealing.

As she left the holy temple,
Where her youthful vows were plighted,
She knew not that those vows were vain,
Her earliest visions blighted.

Around her gay, yet placid mien,
Was a smile serenely playing ;
The dream of future happiness,
And her present bliss betraying.

No marks of inward bitterness,
Her joyous heart o'erflowing ;
Or thought to chill the glowing warmth
Of affection's sacred glowing.

With glistening locks of raven hue
Was her peaceful brow o'ershaded ;
Reflected in her radiant eye,
The hope that never faded.

Alas, how transient beauty's reign,
And Time's hurried course how fleeting,
Where is the gladsome bosom now,
With holy ardor beating ?

Where, oh where is the spotless gem,
Each gloomy hour beguiling ?
Where, in the bloom of bridal youth,
Is the Queen of Beauty smiling ?

Where the flowrets gem the lowly heath,
And the graceful willows weeping ;
Low, 'neath the dew-bespangled turf,
The Orphan Bride is sleeping.

Virgil.

He was of a swarthy complexion—tall and athletic, but of a weekly constitution. He was so bashful, that, when people crowded to see him, he would slip into some passage or shop to avoid them. His studies, sickness, and the troubles he met with, turned his hair grey before the usual time. He had a hesitation in his speech, like many other great men; it being rarely found that a very fluent elocution and depth of judgment meet in the same person. His aspect and behaviour were rustic and ungraceful. He was of a thoughtful and melancholy temperament, spoke little, loved retirement and contemplation and was an enemy to these talkative impertinents from which no court, not even that of Augustus, could be free.

The Present Age.

The world has never before witnessed so vast an amount of mental activity as now displayed to the inhabitants of this Republic. Our middle class in solid acquirements and extent of formation far surpass, not only the nobles, but the clergy, of former times. Children now grasp philosophical truths that were but dimly discerned, or entire unperceived by the ancient sages. Education is now placing within the reach of the whole industrial population the highest departments of science and learning. Already we may be called a nation of thinking men. Literature has assumed a popular character and the cheap issues of the press bring the poor amongst us to intimate communion with the rich intellects. The effect of all this action upon mind is visible every where around us. Free thought necessarily generates vast diversities of opinion. There is movement of intellect which knows no rest. The hard-handed workers are no longer content with satisfying their natural wants. There are multitudes whom spiritual life is struggling beneath the pressure of material interests. They have fine sympathies, and longings for advancement, and searching into truth, and aspirations after the soul's enjoyment.

Milk and Strawberries.

The two daily trains upon the Erie Railroad bring to New York market 50,000 quarts of milk per day, giving the road a revenue of $250 per day, and making to the city a benefit of $350,000 a year in the article of milk only. The quantity of strawberries brought down this week exceeds 60,000 baskets a day.

Electric Clock.

Much has been said about an electric clock, especially the one invented by Mr. Bain of Edinburgh, and which regulate and works by one in that city others in Glasgow, Perth and Ayr. We therefore present a description of it taken from a foreign exchange :—

The clock is enclosed in a neat oak case, about four and a half feet in height, and one foot four inches wide. Its face is of ample dimensions, very plain in appearance, and is furnished with second, minute and hour hands, in all respects similar to those of the usual construction. The pendulum is of the same length as that of the ordinary old fashioned eight-day clocks. Here, however, analogy ceases. It is true, there are some wheels and pinions to move the hands, and afford accurate indications of the division and progress of time ; but these are few in number, and do their work in a manner totally different from those in other kinds of clocks. The electric clock has neither weight nor spring, nor power of any other kind, within itself, to keep it motion ; and it therefore never wants winding up.

There are two very small copper wires fixed into the angles of the clock case, which communicate with similar wires at the back of the pendulum bar, and are thence continued to a coil of the same kind of wire enclosed in a circular brass box, which box constitutes what is usually termed the bob of the pendulum. The box being hollow, in the direction of its axis, the cavity thus formed admits of the insertion of two sets of permanent magnets, whose similar poles are placed near to, but not in contact with, each other. These magnets are known their places by being enclosed in brass boxes secured to the sides of the clock case. The pendulum is so adjusted that it has, of course, perfect freedom of motion ; whilst in its oscillations it passes alternately the poles of the magnet just mentioned.

There are two copper wires, the ends of which come in contact with those in the case and continue their course along the wall and out of doors and then descend into the earth and are connected, the one with a few bushels of coke, and the other with five or six plates of zinc. These materials are buried in a hole in the earth, about four feet square, and five feet deep, the coke being placed at the bottom with a layer of earth above it, and then the zinc plates are laid thereon and the whole covered up, thus forming a galvanic battery. Here consists the power which imparts motion to the clock ; a current of electricity being induced by the coke and zinc, which, although of low intensity, is unlimited as a quantity, the source whence it is derived being the earth itself. The pendulum being set in motion and the current of electricity through the wires established, a beautiful arrangement of simple mechanism immediately comes into operation, by means of which the circuit is broken and renewed at each alternate oscillation. Thus by the skill of the inventor, the combined agencies of galvo-electricity, electro magnetism, and permanent magnetism, are made to produce an uniform and, so to speak perpetual motion of the pendlum ; and we obtain a time measurer of such extraordinary accuracy that we believe it will bear comparison, in this respect, with the best constructed chronometer.

If it be desired to have other clocks in different parts of the house, that we have been describing requires only to be connected with them by a copper wire and the circuit completed to the battery ; and they will all be kept going by the motion of one pendulum, and record exactly the same time. So also the public clocks in a town, could, by similar means, be made to synchronise.

Profits of Trash.

Dickens' share of the profits of the last number of " Dombey and Son," was *twenty three-thousand dollars*. That's the way of the world. Milton got ten pounds for his Paradise Lost. Wilson the American Ornithologist was never above want—while here a light novelist gets thousands for his useless literature.

It is estimated that the surface planted with corn this year in the State of New Jersey, exceeds that of last year by 100,000 acres, which ought to yield three or four million bushels.

Roman Mosaic Manufactory.

No change appears to have taken place in the mode of manufacture followed there during the last 200 years. A plate, generally of metal, of the size of the picture to be copied, is first surrounded by margin about three-fourths of an inch from its surface. This is then covered over with a coating of perhaps one-fourth of an inch in thickness of mastic cement—composed of powdered Travertine stone, lime, and linseed oil. This is, when set, entirely covered with plaster of Paris, rising to a level with the surrounding margin, which is intended to be exactly that of the finished mosaic. On this is traced a very careful outline of the picture to be copied, and, with a fine chissel, just as much is removed from time to time, as will admit of the insertion of the little pieces of glass mosaic, or as the Italian call it, " smalto." This smalto is composed of glass, and is made in rounds, about six or eight inches in diameter, and half an inch thick The workmen then proceeds to select from the great depository, wherein are preserved, in trays, nearly 10,000 varieties of color, those he may require, which he then works to the necessary shape. This is done by striking the smalto with a sharp edged hammer, directly over a similar edge, placed vertically beneath. The concussion breaks the smalto to very nearly the shape required, and it is then more perfectly ground, by application to a lead-wheel covered with emery powder. The piece thus shaped is then moistened with a little cement, and bedded in its proper situation ; and so on, until the picture is finished : when the whole is ground down an even face, and polished. Six regularly instructed artists are now constantly employed in the Fabrica, at the Vatican. The Florentine mosiac, instead of being composed of a fictile material, is made entirely of marbles, agates, gems, &c., and by means of these materials only, graceful and elaborate representations of flowers, fruit, ornaments, &c., have been produced. Marbles and jaspers of different colors, being, of course, very valuable, are only used in thin slices, like veneer ; and are backed upon slate. The process is extremely tedious, a paper mould having to be cut for every small piece of marble, and each part must be ground at the wheel until it exactly coincides with the pattern. Considering the extreme difficulty of working in such materials, the finished pictures are quite astonishing, and some of the works at present in hand in the Grand Ducal manufactory at Florence, intended for a high altar in the chapel of the Medici at San Lorenzo, will be the most beautiful specimens yet produced. Of course, the demand for such elaborate, and consequently expensive labors, must be very limed ; so that the trade cannot be general.

A Fortunate Soldier.

A Lieutenant of the Rifles, who is now in Mexico, gives his experience of that country in the following manner :

" If these cursed Mexicans did not shoot at one so hard, Mexico would be a delightful country to be in. What am I, who two weeks ago was sleeping upon the hard rock without shelter, doing now ! Why, luxuriating in a real bed, with clean sheets and pillows with fringed cases. At present I board with a very pleasant family, with whom I am on the very best of terms. Lately when I had a slight return of fever, they almost killed me with kindness and attention. From my window I regard a perfect wilderness of beauty—woods, mountains, meadows, and flowers ; numbers of singing birds of beautiful plumage delight the ear and sight. Ozala,! Ozala ! I exclaim with admiration

" You should see our family party at night. A jolly Spaniard plays the harp for *us*—the girls, (three of them) Don Samiago, (another boarder) and Don Diego, (that is to say myself.) We dance everything ; Polkas, Spanish dances, Mexican waltzes ; and the old Padre, a Francisian monk with shaven crown, looks on and says : " Young people, enjoy yourselves now ; when you are old confess your sins." — How pleasant this ! One of the girls (Soliad by name) sings well ard is now writing off for me a Spanish song for C— "

Society, like shaded silk, must be viewed in all situations, or its colors will deceive us.

Novel Invention by Punch—A Piano to be played upon by the Toes.

Every one, is tired of the Ethiopians, and we get so angry as nearly to turn black in the face whenever we hear them mentioned. Something, then, is wanted, of an entirely novel kind, to replace the void which will we hope, be soon occasioned by the clearance of Ethiopians from the face of the town, upon which they remain at present like a dark spot that has hitherto defied the soap of injudicious praise, and the scrubbing-brush of harsher criticism. We propose, therefore, to effect a cure of the prevailing epidemic by establishing a sort of counterirritant ; and we have therefore invented a species of piano, which can be simultaneously played and danced upon by any infant prodigy who is in want of a job ; and as several of them have been some time out of work, there will be no difficulty in finding one to execute the task for which she is required. Our piano will have its keys elongated and widened to such an extent as to form a sort of stage or platform, upon which the prodigy will execute a *solo*, combining a dance and its appropriate accompaniment in the same movement.

The prodigies already performed by the fingers will be arranged for the toes, and some of the most difficult pieces of HERZ will afford ample opportunity for that activity of caper and energy of *entrechat* that the *danseuses* of the present day are so anxious to cultivate. We beg leave to warn the world that we claim this invention as our own patent. It is true we do not yet know how the instrument is to be made ; but the idea is ours, and if any one dares to make use of it, we will bring down upon him the power of an injunction, and the just indignation of the Right Honorable LORD COTTENHAM.

The Spider's Thread.

That any creature can be found to fabricate a net not less ingenious than that of the fisherman, for the capture of its prey—that it should fix in the right place, and then patiently await the result, is a proceeding so strange that, if we did not see it done daily before our eyes by the common house spider, and garden spider, it would seem wonderful. But how much is our wonder increased when we think of the complex fabric of each single thread, and then of the mathematical precision and rapidity with which, in certain cases, the net itself is constructed ; and to add to all this as an example of the wonders which the most common things exhibit when carefully examined, the net of the garden spider consists of two distinct kinds of silk.—The threads forming the concentric circles are composed of a silk much more elastic than that of the rays, and are studded over with minute globules of a viscid gum, sufficiently adhesive to retain any unwary fly which comes in contact with it. A net of average dimensions is estimated by Mr. Blackwall to contain 86,860 of these globules, and a large net of fourteen or sixteen inches in diameter, 120,000 ; and yet such a net will be completed by one species (*Experia apoclica*) in about forty minutes) on an average, if no interruption.

Reverence for age.

Reverence is always due to aged people. God, nature, and a proper education, say to the young, reverence old age. Gray hairs are crowns of glory, when found in the way of righteousness.

The prompting of our kindly nature teach us to respect the aged, to rise up before the hoary head. The dim eye, the furrowed brow, the temples thinly clad who would not respect, reverence, love them ?

I love the youth who reverences the aged always, and whosoever they are. O youth, revere thy aged friend ; respect those silver locks, so whitened by the toiling hardships of many long years.

Anonymous Munificence.

Professor Sears, of the Newton Theological Institution, has received an anonymous letter enclosing three thousand dollars, which the modest and unostentatious writer wishes to devote thus—$2,000 to the support of the President of the Institution, and $1,000 to the funds of the American Baptist Union.

There seems to be every prospect of abundant crops in Long Island and New Jersey.